

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a plurality of reagent test strips, said method  
5 comprising:
  - (a) providing a test strip precursor comprising an elongated support material having a first planar surface and a stripe of reagent material positioned along a central axis thereof; and
  - (b) cutting said test strip precursor into a plurality of reagent test strips  
10 according to an inter-digitating pattern.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said test strip precursor is a tape.
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said test strip precursor is a card.  
15
4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said reagent material comprises a signal producing system.
5. The method according to Claim 4, wherein said signal producing system  
20 produces a color that can be related to the concentration of an analyte in a sample contacted with said reagent material.
6. The method according to Claim 4, wherein said signal producing system produces an electrical current that can be related to the concentration of an analyte in a  
25 sample contacted with said reagent material.
7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises producing said test strip precursor.

8. The method according to Claim 1, wherein each of said strips produced by said method includes a sample region and a handling region, where said reagent material is located in said sample region.

5 9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said sample region includes a hole in said support material which is covered by said reagent material.

10. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said strip has an aspect ratio that is about 0.5.

10

11. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said test strips produced by said method can be used in a hand-held optical meter.

12. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said hand-held optical meter is a  
15 ONE TOUCH<sup>®</sup> meter.

13. A reagent test strip produced according to the method of Claim 1, wherein said reagent test strip has a sample region and a handling region, wherein said reagent material is located in said sample region.

20

14. The reagent test strip according to Claim 13, wherein said reagent test strip has an aspect ratio of that is about 0.5.

15. The reagent test strip according to Claim 14, wherein said reagent test strip has  
25 a configuration that is substantially the same as or identical to a reagent test strip configuration selected from the group of configurations shown in Figures 2 to 8.

16. The reagent test strip according to Claim 15, wherein said reagent test strip can be read by a hand held optical meter.

30

17. The reagent test strip according to Claim 16, wherein said hand held optical meter is a ONE TOUCH<sup>®</sup> meter.
18. A method for determining the concentration of an analyte in a sample, said  
5 method comprising:
- (a) applying a fluid sample to a reagent test strip of Claim 13;
  - (b) detecting a signal from said reagent test strip; and
  - (c) relating said detected signal to the concentration of analyte in said sample to determine the concentration of said analyte in said fluid sample.
- 10
19. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said fluid sample is a biological sample.
20. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said analyte is glucose.
- 15
21. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said detecting and relating steps are performed by a hand held optical meter.
22. The method according to Claim 21, wherein said hand held optical meter is a  
20 ONE TOUCH<sup>®</sup> meter.
23. A kit for use in determining the concentration of an analyte in a physiological sample, said kit comprising:
- (a) a reagent test strip according to Claim 13; and
  - 25 (b) at least one of:
    - (i) a means for obtaining said physiological sample; and
    - (ii) an analyte standard.
24. The kit according to Claim 23, wherein said means for obtaining said  
30 physiological sample is a lance.

25. The kit according to Claim 23, wherein said analyte standard comprises a standardized concentration of a known reagent.
- 5 26. The kit according to Claim 23, wherein said kit comprises said means for obtaining said physiological sample and said analyte standard.
27. The kit according to Claim 23, wherein said kit further comprises a hand held optical meter.
- 10 28. The kit according to Claim 27, wherein said hand held optical meter is a ONE TOUCH<sup>®</sup> meter.